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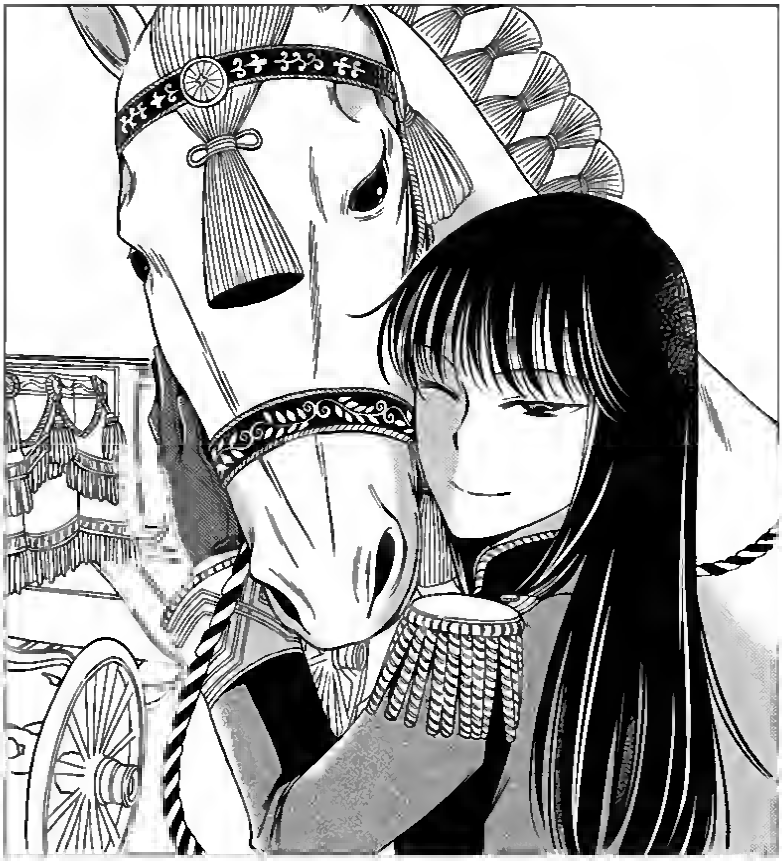
HANATOYUME COMICS
別冊花とゆめ

Palace Meidi

Volume
2



Palace
Meidi
Chapter 5

SINCE LONG AGO, THE PEOPLE IN THE PALACE HAVE WRITTEN POEMS FROM WITHIN THEIR HEARTS
A poem,
Is becoming stronger in my heart...
SO,
IS IT A LOVE POEM?
whisper whisper

W-WHAT ARE YOU DOING
HERE IN THIS PLACE!
MEN ARE PROHIBITED WITHIN THE INNER PALACE!!
COMING HERE WITHOUT PERMISSION...
MISONO,
AREN'T YOU A MAN TOO?
!

THE MODERN PALACE PEOPLE ARE BECOMING MORE NUMEROUS
PALACE MEIDI
THE PREVIOUS EMPEROR WAS CALLED THE MEIDI EMPEROR
THE ELEGANT PALACE WAS IN SPLENDOR
I, MISONO KIMIYORI,
AM ALLOWED ACCESS TO THE PALACE IN MY ROLE AS A STUDENT CHAMBERLAIN'S ATTENDANT
SINCE I'M AN ATTENDANT IT'S ALL RIGHT IF I GO INSIDE

.....
I'M THE SAME AGE AS YOU, BUT I ALREADY RETIRED.
MISONO
THIS PERSON IS TOUT-SUJI-SAN. FORMERLY, HE WAS MY SENPAI AS AN ATTENDANT.
YEAH.
Ka-thump
IT'S BECAUSE YOU HAVE HER MAJESTY'S FAVOR, ISN'T IT?
DID HER MAJESTY STOP YOU FROM RETIRING?
I HEARD IT FROM THE PALACE LADIES.
Huh?
No that was
WOOF
"I'M FOND OF YOU."
SOMETHING LIKE "FAVOR"..
mumble mumble

Woof
Woof
Woof
Woof
Woof
IT'S BEEN A WHILE, RON
Hahaha
YOU'RE MISNONO'S RIVAL
THAT'S RIGHT, YOU RECIEVE HER MAJESTY'S FAVOR TOO
WHY AM I THE SAME AS A DOG?
!!!
THIS IS "FAVOR"?
step
Whoosh
IS THAT TOUTSUJI I HEAR?
Woof
!
AND THIS PERSON IS-

THE ONE I SERVE,
THE CURRENT EMPEROR, AKIKO-SAMA
IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE YOU'VE COME TO THE PALACE. LET ME SEE YOUR FACE.
YOUR MAJESTY.
IF I MAY BE ALLOWED TO ENTER THE INNER PALACE...

YES, MA'AM
IS TODAY THE DAY OF THE FIRST POETRY MEETING REHEARSAL?
IT'S NOT A PROBLEM IF IT'S YOU YOU MAKE THE PALACE LADIES HAPPY
OPENS IN JANUARY FOR THE NEW YEAR
THAT'S RIGHT TOUTUSJI-SAN IS FROM A POETRY FAMILY
STARTING WITH HER MAJESTY, THE MIYA FAMILY AND THE COURTIERS ATTEND THIS PALACE EVENT
THE FIRST POETRY MEETING
MISONO,
ARE YOU GOING TO THE OUTER PALACE?
YES, MA'AM
THIS IS THE ROLE OF THE IMPERIAL COURT FAMILIES
THE PALACE TRADITION IS TO RECITE THE MELODY LOUDLY
The "Introduction" is said

YUNAGIHARA IS COMING TO THE PALACE TO INSTRUCT ME IN POETRY
I'LL SEE YOU LATER, TOUTSUJI
BE WELL, YOUR MAJESTY
MISONO
See you later
Yeah
I LOOKED AT YOUR HONORABLE WORK
It's very nice, Your Majesty
GOING
THE POET, YUNAGIHARA UTAKO

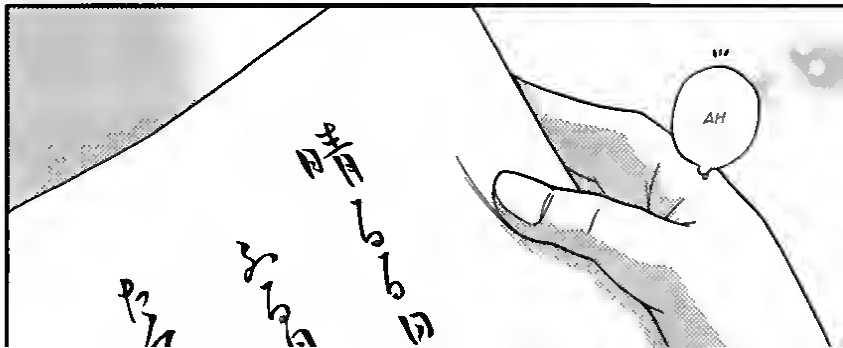
IS THAT SO?
THEN, I SHOULD PRESENT THIS POEM AT THE FIRST POETRY MEETING?
.....
IT'S VERY GOOD.
HERE, IT WOULD BE BETTER TO REPLACE THIS WITH "IMPERIAL COURT'S GARDEN"
IN THE OLD PALACE STYLE
GET RID OF THE LAST LINE, IT SHOULD BE CHANGED COMPLETELY.
THAT WOULD MAKE IT A MORE EMPEROR-LIKE POEM.
Rustle
Rustle
Rustle
breathes
IF YOU'RE GOING TO CORRECT IT THAT MUCH, SAY IT'S A BAD POEM FROM THE BEGINNING,
YUNAGI-HARA.
YOUR MAJESTY!
IT'S
Ok

MY FATHER WAS KNOWN AS A GREAT POET, BUT I DIDN'T INHERIT HIS TALENTS
TO BE HONEST, I'M NOT GOOD AT POETRY
WELL, OKAY
"IMPERIAL PALACE GARDENS" WAS YUNAGIHARA'S CORRECTION
rustle
MISONO,
DELIVER A CLEAN COPY OF THIS POEM TO THE TOUTSUJI FAMILY
I'll just copy this for the practice
YUNAGIHARA HAS LEFT
bow

IS THIS THE PAPER YOU WROTE IT ON?
THAT'S A REJECTED POEM IT'S SCRAP PAPER NOW.

SHE SAID I SHOULD WRITE THE POEM FROM MY HEART,
BUT SHE CORRECTED IT TO BE "MORE LIKE AN EMPEROR."
SO, I'M NOT GOOD AT POETRY.
clatter

A REJECTED POEM
rustle


AH

THIS TYPE OF POETRY, I...
.....
DO YOU LIKE MY POEM?
AH... NO!
RIGHT! THIS KIND OF THING IS MY WEAK POINT.
I MADE ONE FOR SCHOOL HOMEWORK
I WAS "FOURTH IN RANK"
haha

HER LAUGHING FACE...
WHAT KIND OF POEM WAS IT?
I-I ALREADY FORGOT.
eep
SURELY IT WAS AN HONEST POEM
WHAT DO YOU MEAN...
IF YANAGIHARA-SAN SAW IT, I THINK SHE WOULD PUT A BIG "X" ON IT
WRONG
WHEN I SEE YANAGIHARA-SAN'S HAIR, I'M AMAZED
HOW DOES SHE PUT IT UP?
Ahh
shake
shake
ME TOO. WHEN I BROUGHT HER HERE, I KEPT COLLIDING WITH IT!

IT'S OKAY IF HER AFFECTION FOR ME IS THE SAME AS FOR A DOG
SEEING HER LAUGH BESIDE ME
IS ENOUGH.

YOUR LOVE ISN'T RETURNED, MISONO
PLEASE STOP!
IT'S NOT LIKE THAT WITH HER MAJESTY... I RESPECT HER!
RIGHT, RIGHT
grin grin
I MERELY WORSHIP HER RESPECTFULLY...
mumble mumble
I READ A FORMER EMPEROR'S HONEST LOVE POEM.
"HOW CAN THERE BE BEAUTY? IF EVEN LOVE IS SUFFERING."
Umm who wrote it?
TOBA-NO-IN.*

*Toba-no-in refers to Emperor Go-Toba the 82th Emperor of Japan (1183-1198). He wrote many waika poems and edited the Shin Kokinshu an imperial anthology

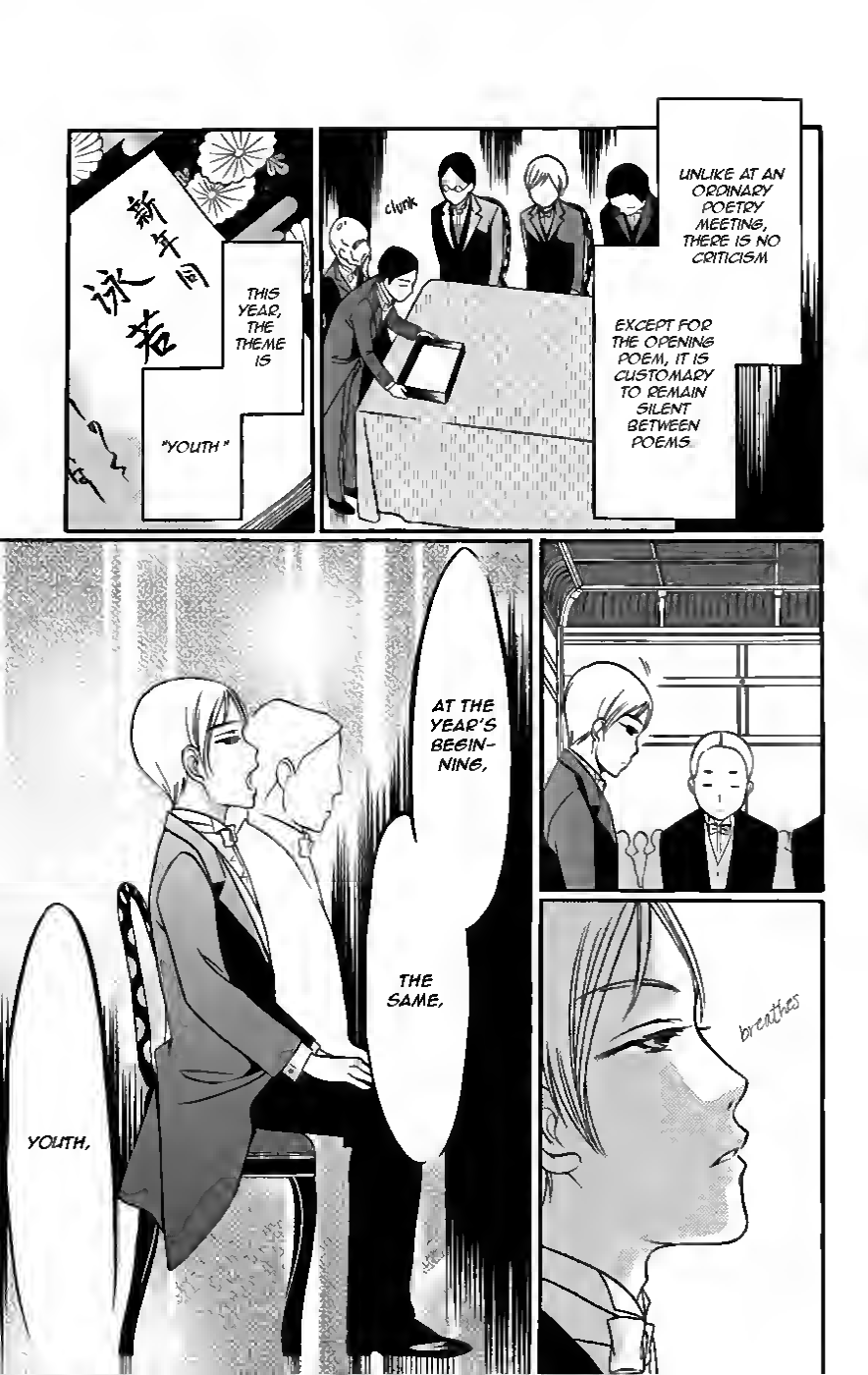
SINCE THE CURRENT EMPEROR IS BAD AT POETRY...
as if she were to embrace me.
For her also, the awakening of my love causes the same suffering
WHAT ARE YOU DOING AT THE POETRY MEETING?
IT'S OKAY WITH ME!
hyo hyo
IT S CERTAINLY A BIG ROLE, BECAUSE THEY HAVE TO READ FOR SO LONG, A YOUNG PERSON IS CHOSEN EACH YEAR.
AS THE SPEAKER, DON T YOU READ POETRY AT THE BEGINNING!?
WOW
THIS YEAR, IT'S ME. ♫
I'LL BE THE SPEAKER.

THE SPEAKER MUST UNDERSTAND THE THREE COLLECTIONS OF POETRY
THE THREE COLLECTIONS?
THE KOKINSHUU, THE GOSENSHUU, AND ……
appears suddenly
THE SHUISHUU
Yes, that's right!
ARE YOU REALLY GOING TO BE OKAY, TOUTSUJI-SAN!?
sheha
I HAVE A BEAUTIFUL VOICE ♡
SEE YOU AT THE POETRY MEETING AT THE PALACE!

YOU SUPRISED ME, ORITSU
!?
YOU REPLIED SO SMOOTHLY, LIKE YOU'D GONE TO SCHOOL
IT'S NOT... IT WASN'T ANYTHING SPECIAL...
stuttering
DO YOU LIKE POETRY?
WELL, IF YOU ENJOY LISTENING TO POETRY, YOU MIGHT ENJOY THE POETRY MEETING
NOD
.....

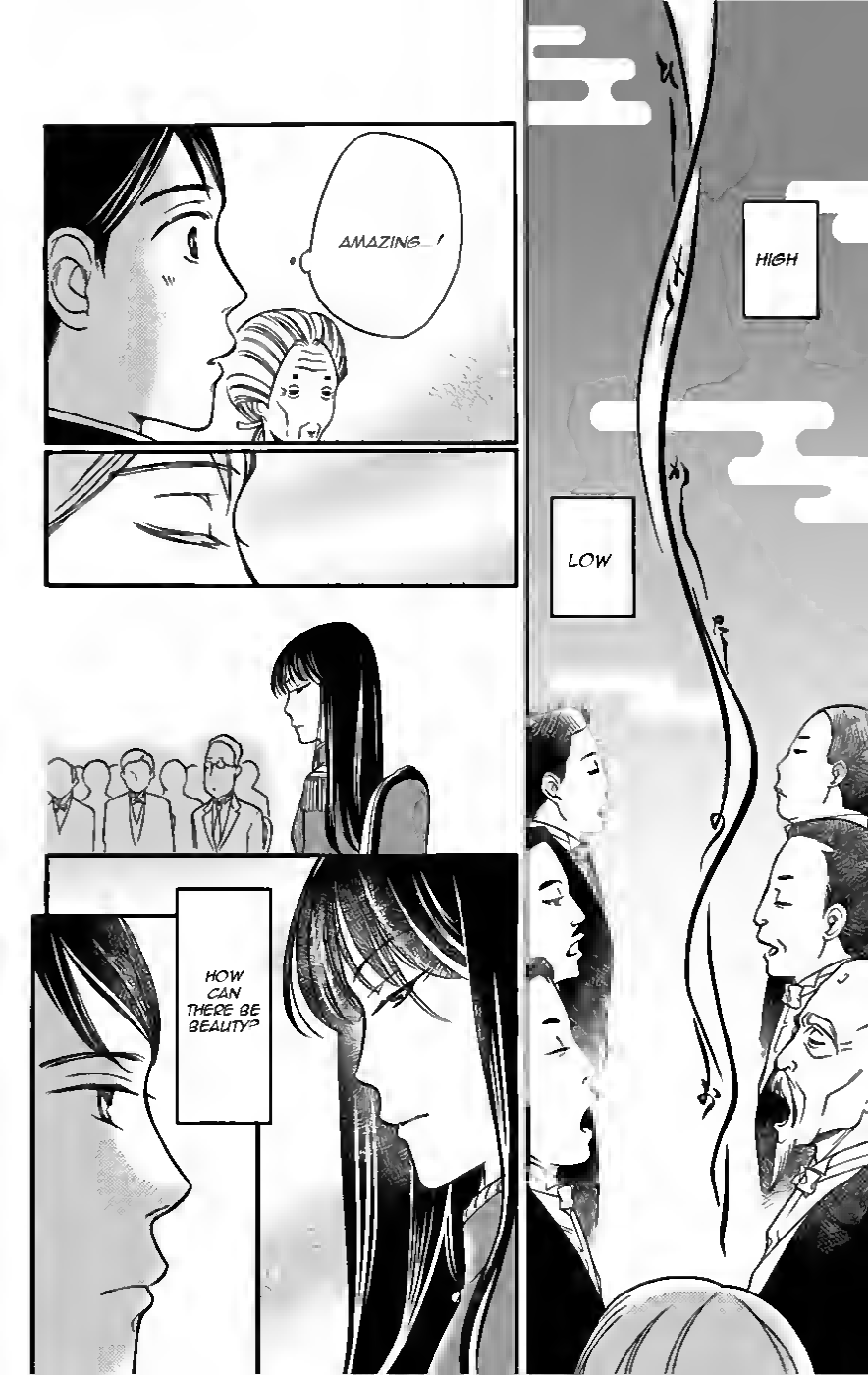
DO YOU KNOW THE ORDER OF POEMS FOR CERTAIN?
THE ORDER OF INTRO-DUCTION IS BY SOCIAL STATUS.
IF YOU MAKE A MISTAKE IT WILL BE DIS-RESPECTFUL!
BE VERY CAREFUL, TOUTSUJI-SAN
I've memorized it
YE-S.
IT WILL SOON BE TIME
FOR THE INTRO-DUCTIONS
IN THE PALACE

THE FIRST POETRY MEETING IS IN THE PALACE'S PHOENIX ROOM
THE EMPEROR'S PRESENCE SIGNALS THE BEGINNING
THE POEMS WRITTEN BY THE RETAINERS COME BEFORE
THOSE BY THE MIYA FAMILY REPRESENTATIVES, THE IMPERIAL PRINCESS AND IMPERIAL PRINCE.
AT THE END, HER MAJESTY'S POEM IS READ


新年詠
THIS YEAR, THE THEME IS
"YOUTH"
clunk
UNLIKE AT AN ORDINARY POETRY MEETING, THERE IS NO CRITICISM
EXCEPT FOR THE OPENING POEM, IT IS CUSTOMARY TO REMAIN SILENT BETWEEN POEMS
AT THE YEAR'S BEGIN-NING,
THE SAME,
YOUTH,
breathes

IT
IS THO-
UGH
HER MAJESTY'S COMMAND THAT THE POEMS ARE READ
HE HAS A NICE VOICE!
On standby in the corridor
MISONO-SAN
SHH-
IS IT OKAY? FOR THE PALACE LADIES TO COME OUT HERE
haha
SUKE-SAMA ONLY COMMANDED US TO LISTEN
BESIDES, WE HAVE TO PRO-TECT THIS GENTLE-MAN AS WELL
CROWN PRINCE!
THE CROWN PRINCE IS HER MAJESTY'S YOUNGER HALF BROTHER
clears throat
I WROTE A POEM TOO

WOULD YOU ALLOW ME TO SEE IT?
Yeah.
I CAN'T READ IT!
"I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT YOUTH AND OLD PEOPLE. IT FELL ASLEEP IN MY LAP. THE CAT."
THAT'S A VERY GOOD POEM.
BUT THE GRAND MASTER SAID I WAS TOO LITTLE AND COULDN'T GO TO THE POETRY MEETING
Pfft
WE CAN LISTEN FROM HERE TOGETHER
THE MOON'S
THE SPEAKER'S RECITATION ENDS
THE LEAD VOCALIST AND THE CHORUS RECITE THE POEMS


HIGH
LOW
AMAZING...!
HOW CAN THERE BE BEAUTY?

IF SHE WERE TO FAVOR ME WITH AN EMBRACE
SHE WOULD EXPERIENCE THE SAME PAIN AS THE AWAKENING OF MY LOVE
BUT... I KNOW THE FEELING WELL.
chatter
THE PRISONER'S POEM, YANGI-HARA NO UTAKO
HE'S NOT SATISFIED TO BE ALONE...
IT'S A SPITEFUL LOVE POEM
IT'S YANAGI-HARA-SAN!
Her hair is amazing today too
IT'S BECAUSE THE PRISONER'S POEM IS PRESENTED BY A POET
breathes
THE PALACE'S,
GARDEN OF YOUNG TREES,
HOPEFUL,

HUH? THIS POEM
!
AT THE END, THE EMPEROR'S POEM IS READ!
The feeling
Of poetry -
HE'S MADE A MISTAKE IN THE ORDER!
huh?
.....
.....

My poem
That's not
.....
heh.
WHAT HAPPENED?
TOUTSUJI-SAN.
Everyone has noticed..
PITTER
CROWN PRINCE!
whispered
patter-

PLEASE READ MY POEM.
DOWN
nod
excited
Rustle...

THEY CAN'T READ IT!
The kanji?
STARE
"MISONO CAN READ IT"
silently
YOU UNDER-STAND POETRY.
silently
I CAN'T DO THAT!!!
WE CAN'T DECIPHER IT.
silently
BUT...

NO WAY!
deep breath
NEXT IS THE POEM OF THE IMPERIAL CHILD.
ahh
I don't know anything about
Well
He certainly has a good voice
IT'S OVER I SHOULD LEAVE SOON
huff
huff
step

YOU SHOULD ALSO READ THE EMPEROR'S POEM!
silently
TOUTSUJI-SAN!?
.....
THEY STILL CAN'T READ THE POEM!!
BECAUSE THERE WAS A MISTAKE A LITTLE WHILE AGO,
Yes, yes
Please
THESE PEOPLE
Please

WELL, IT'S MISONO-SAN.
HE'S IN THE SEAT TO INTRO-DUCE POEMS.
sft
WHEN THE SAME POEM WAS READ A LITTLE WHILE AGO,
IT SPOILED THE ATMOSPHERE HERE.
NEVERTHELESS, IF THE EMPEROR'S NAME WAS READ BY A DIFFERENT PERSON,
IT WOULD BE DISRESPECTFUL.
I REMEMBER
HER MAJESTY'S POEM.

cough
.....
WHOOSH
HER MAJESTY'S POEM.
IS WHAT THE POEM WAS WRITTEN ABOUT
YOUTH.

WELL, THAT WAS THE FIRST POETRY MEETING
chatter
chatter
chatter
TRULY ELEGANT
NOW, EVERYONE GO TO THE PAULOWNIA ROOM FOR SOME CELEBRATORY DRINKS
chatter
breathes
WE CAN OFFER NO EXCUSE!
shudder
shudder
shudder

THE ONE WHO INTRODUCED THE POEMS WAS PUT THROUGH A LOT OF TROUBLE.
WELL, IT WAS A VERY INTERESTING FIRST POETRY MEETING.
CHUCKLE
IT'S ALL YOUR FAULT!
YOUR MAJESTY!
What did you say?
WELL,
IF IT'S HER MAJESTY'S COMMAND ♡
sigh
YOU SHOULD ALL DRINK SOME SAKE, TOO.
PLEASE GIVE THE COMMAND!
I SELFISHLY READ YOUR MAJESTY'S DISCARDED POEM...

MISONO.
WHY DID YOU MEMORIZE THAT POEM?
.....
EVEN THOUGH YOUR MAJESTY HAD DISCARDED IT, I STOLE WHAT YOU CALLED WASTEPAPER.
I MEMORIZED IT
IN THAT POEM

*Misono's name is written with the same kanji that Akiko used to write about the garden in her original poem. The last kanji in his name means garden.
I SAW THE SAME KANJI AS MY NAME.*
ehehe
AH,
I KNOW THAT IT HAS ABSOLUTELY NO CONNECTION WITH ME.
Waah
IT WAS ONLY A COINCIDENCE THAT THE KANJI WERE THE SAME. IT WAS...
.....
SO, I REALLY AM BAD AT POETRY
fu
IT WAS INTENDED TO CONVEY THE TRUE STATE OF MY HEART

I SUPPOSE I DIDN'T CONVEY IT AT ALL.
astonished
?

IF YOU LIKE THAT POEM,
I'LL GIVE IT TO YOU.
Your Majesty
SHALL I SAY THAT MY "FOURTH RANK" GRADE WAS COMPLETELY ACCURATE?
Let's drink!
My poem
That was very good, Your Highness
Thanks

WHY DID MY TEACHER GIVE ME THE POETRY RANK OF "FOUR"
WHEN I DIDN'T UNDER-STAND
POETRY EVEN A LITTLE?
On clear days and rainy days,
the figures of the young trees in the park
comfort me
I WON'T FORGET HER MAJESTY'S POEM IF I WRITE IT DOWN
御園生の

*The kanji here show Misono's name embedded in the word for "park".

After the poetry meeting...
"THE PARK"?
hiccup
"The park" in honorific language
AH, THE GARDEN! IT WAS GOOD TO USE THAT WORD IN THE POEM, RIGHT...
AS I EXPECTED, IT WASN'T ABOUT ME
IT'S AN EMBARRASSING MISTAKE
ORITSU!
ORITSU...!
ARE YOU THERE, ORITSU?
YES, YOUNG MASTER.
pitter patter

"On clear days and rainy days, the figures of the young trees in the park give comfort to my heart."
STARE
THE YOUNG TREES IN THE PARK..
IS IT POSSIBLE THAT

THIS POEM WAS WRITTEN ABOUT THE YOUNG MASTER?